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**United Nations
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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third session**
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Draft resolution on pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Deeply concerned about the threats to human health and environment from pollution caused or worsened by armed conflict or terrorism,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/37, entitled "Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict",

Taking note of the Executive Director's report UNEP/EA.3/16 dated 20 September 2017, and its recommendations and suggested action, on the Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/15 on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict,

Expressing its deep concern on environmental damage and depletion of natural resources in the territories affected by armed conflict or terrorism,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 50/70, entitled "General and complete disarmament"; General Assembly resolution 53/242, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", which reaffirms that in accordance with its mandate the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved with conflict identification, prevention or resolution; and General Assembly resolution 57/337, entitled "Prevention of armed conflict", which recognizes the need for mainstreaming and coordinating the prevention of armed conflict throughout the United Nations system and calls upon all its relevant organs, organizations, and bodies to consider, in accordance with their respective mandate, how they could best include a conflict prevention perspective in their activities, where appropriate,

Reaffirming that while addressing pollution in areas where terrorism has occurred, the United Nations Environment Programme must act within its mandate, which does not include a role in countering terrorism or the definition of terrorism, and is without prejudice to the mandate of other relevant bodies of the United Nations,

Recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of the environment contribute to human well-being and the enjoyment of human rights,

Also recognizing the need to mitigate and minimize the specific negative effects of pollution in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism on people in vulnerable situations, including children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and internally displaced persons,

Further recognizing the specific negative effects of pollution on women and girls and the need to apply a gender perspective with respect to addressing pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism,

Recalling its resolution 2/15, entitled "Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict" which acknowledged *inter alia* the need to mitigate the environmental impact of activities of transnational and other organized criminal groups, including illegal armed groups, as well as the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources, in areas affected by armed conflict, and noting the role that the United Nations Environment Programme can play, within its mandate, to support Member States in addressing these challenges upon request,

Expressing its grave concern about pollution and environmental degradation caused by armed conflict or terrorism through the targeting of natural resources, vital civilian infrastructure, including water filtration facilities, sanitation and electricity networks, and to residential properties,

Noting the long-term socio-economic consequences of the degradation of the environment and natural resources resulting from pollution caused by armed conflict or terrorism, which include, *inter alia*, the loss of biodiversity, the loss of crops or livestock, and the lack of access to clean water and agricultural land, the negative and sometimes irreversible impacts on ecosystem services and their impact on sustainable recovery, contributing to further forced displacement related to environmental factors,

Noting also that the collapse of environmental governance in conflict affected areas can lead to inadequate waste management and dumping, while the loss of economic opportunity can compel affected communities to pursue unsustainable and polluting coping strategies,

Taking into consideration the potential threat from, and far reaching impact due to, the movement of hazardous wastes over long distances, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism,

Further noting that illicit extraction of natural resources and minerals in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism can generate pollution and displacement of people in particular those in a vulnerable situation, especially women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons,

Stressing the need for the swift identification, assessment, and remediation of pollution impacts in the areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism in order to protect human health and the environment,

Welcoming with appreciation United Nations Environment Programme's work on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism.

1. *Reaffirms* the rules of international law, including the UN charter, human rights law and international humanitarian law as applicable;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to raise greater international awareness of environmental damage and pollution resulted from armed conflict or terrorism;

3. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures to minimize and control pollution in situations of armed conflict or terrorism;

4. *Stresses* the importance of preventing the pollution of rivers and water reserves with harmful substances as a result of armed conflict or terrorism;

5. *Invites* all Member States, upon the request of affected State, as appropriate, to cooperate closely on preventing, minimizing and mitigating, the negative impacts of armed conflict or terrorism on the environment;

6. *Urges* all States affected by armed conflict or terrorism, to encourage all actors at the national level to participate in the preparation of the national plans and strategies aiming at setting the priorities for environmental assessment and remediation projects and that the data necessary for identifying health outcomes is collected and integrated into health registries and risk education programmes;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue undertaking field visits to affected areas upon the invitation of the affected State, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to dispatch urgent assistance missions as appropriate, upon an affected State's request, within available resources and in conformity with the Programme's mandate, to affected areas, in order to undertake field-based and post-crisis environmental assessments

and recovery, with a view to assisting affected States in controlling pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism;

9. *Requests* also the Executive Director, within available resources and in conformity with the Programme's mandate to explore ways to improve UNEP's work on pollution threats arising from armed conflict or terrorism;

10. *Invites* United Nations Offices, Funds and Programmes, Specialized Agencies and related organizations, other international organizations and relevant stakeholders to collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme in providing technical assistance upon request of States affected by pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism to implement international agreements on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes and to help build effective environmental governance;

11. *Requests* that the Executive Director continue interaction with the International Law Commission *inter alia* by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism;

12. *Also requests* that the Executive Director reports to the next session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on progress towards the implementation of this resolution.